



State Liaison Officer E-Newsletter

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In This Issue:

- New User Manual on Parental Drug Abuse as Child Abuse
- October ACTION for Child Protection Safety Article
- Results of 2007 and 2008 Child and Family Services Reviews
- Domestic Violence Webinar Available On-line
- Updates to State Statutes Series on Parental Substance Abuse

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New User Manual on Substance Use Disorders for Child Welfare Staff

There is a new option available as part of the Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series published by the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families. The manual entitled *Protecting Children in Families Affected by Substance Abuse Disorders (2009)* provides information to help child protective services caseworkers make screening decisions, identify when parental drug and alcohol use is affecting the safety of children and more effectively assess and address the needs of all family members. A key component of the manual is the emphasis on enhanced collaboration between CPS and drug and alcohol treatment agencies to lead to better outcomes for children and families.

To download a copy of the manual, go to:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/substanceuse/>

ACTION for Child Protection-October Safety Article

This month's child safety article is a continuation from last month's safety article and is entitled *The Intake Priority Response Decision Part II: Impending Danger*. While September's article focused on making priority response judgments based on present danger report information, the October article focuses on making decisions regarding reported information that indicates danger exists, but is inactive at the time of the report (impending danger). The article provides four decisive factors that can be used for analyzing reported information to determine if it is consistent with impending danger.

To view the article, go to:

http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/October_The_Intake_Priority_Response_Decision_Part_II_2.pdf

Results of the 2007 and 2008 Child and Family Services Reviews

A detailed PowerPoint presentation on the results of the 2007 and 2008 Child and Family Services Reviews is now available to download. The presentation gives details on case level data from the 2069 cases reviewed during Federal Fiscal Year 2007/2008 and state level data from the 32 States included in the reviews. Regarding safety, the information in the PowerPoint indicates that 21% of the cases reviewed had unaddressed safety concerns including:

- Maltreatment allegations reported and inappropriately screened out.
- Maltreatment allegations never formally reported or investigated.
- Extensive delays in accepting an allegation for investigation or assessment.
- Maltreatment allegations not substantiated despite evidence that would support substantiation.
- Premature case closings.

To download a copy of the PowerPoint containing complete information on the outcome and item results, go to:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/cwmonitoring/results/agencies_courts.pdf

Domestic Violence Webinar Now Available On-Line

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. If you weren't able to join us for the Domestic Violence Webinar held on September 23, 2009, we are pleased to announce that the PowerPoint presentation and audio recording of the webinar are now available at the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services website. The webinar entitled "Integrating Domestic Violence Best Practices and Policy into CW Program Improvement Plans" focused on field-tested strategies and tools developed through the collaborative efforts of domestic violence service providers and local and state child protection agencies. The presenters for the webinar were Lonna Davis, Children's Program Manager at the Family Violence Prevention Fund; Theresa Costello, Director of the NRCCPS; and Shellie Taggart, author of "Child and Family Service Review Outcomes: Strategies to Improve Domestic Violence Responses in CFSR Program Improvement Plans."

The website includes the webinar PowerPoint Presentation, audio recording and a link to the paper *Child and Family Services Review Outcomes: Strategies to Improve Domestic Violence Responses in CFSR Program Improvement Plans*.

To view the webinar, go to: http://www.nrccps.org/resources/domestic_violence.php



Updates to State Statute Series on Parental Substance Use

There have been recent updates made to the Children's Bureau's, Child Welfare Information Gateway, State Statutes Series concerning the approximately 47 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands that have child protection laws to address substance use by parents. The laws generally address two types of parental substance use: (1) prenatal drug exposure and (2) illegal drug activity in the home environment.

To view the statutes that address parental substance use by state, go to:
http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/drugexposed.cfm

Questions or comments?

Please let us know if you have questions or comments concerning the SLO Newsletter. If there are subjects you would like to see covered or if there are questions concerning the information provided in this newsletter, please contact:
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